

## REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 being independent. Claims 1-24 have been amended herein to more clearly define features of the invention and to improve their form. Support for the amendments can be found in the application, as filed. No new matter is being added.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17, and 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,516 to Desmond et al. In addition, claims 6, 12, 18, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Desmond et al. in view U.S. Patent No. 6,067,097 to Morita et al. Applicant traverses these rejections.

In an aspect of Applicant's invention, independent claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus that has a printer driver. The information processing apparatus features primary buffer means, memory means, synthesizing means, and print job means. The primary buffer means stores print command information input from an operation system to the printer driver. The memory means stores one page of intermediate language data generated based on the print command information stored in the primary buffer means. The synthesizing means, upon storing the one page of intermediate language data in the memory means, and if an attribute of print command information that has already been stored in the primary buffer means is identical to that of newly input print command information, synthesizes the already stored print command information and the newly input print command information and allows one page of intermediate language data generated based on the synthesized information to be stored in the memory means.

The print job means generates a job to a printer based on the one page of intermediate language data stored in the memory means.

In other aspects of the invention, independent claims 7, 13, and 19 recite an image processing method, a program stored in a memory medium, and a print control program, respectively, having features that generally correspond to the features of independent claim 1.

The present invention, for example, recognizes that generating data in a computer requires a large amount of memory space. A host computer according to the present invention generates a print job based on print command information input from the operation system to the printer driver, and therefore must handle a large amount of data if the print command information is retained as drawing commands. This large amount of data results in decrease in print speed both in PDL and image modes. A goal of the present invention is to avoid this problem by providing a primary buffer means to store print command information. If the print command information already stored and newly input print command information are identical in attribute, they are synthesized to decrease the data size. Then one page of intermediate language data is generated from the synthesized print command information and stored in the memory means.

Applicant submits that many features of the claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

Desmond et al. relates to print image data middle-ware and is understood to teach a digital printing system in which a decomposer 14 receives RAW data from a computer 10a, 10b and a burst manager 20 outputs print data to a printer 18 at optimal speeds via a FIFO 16.

Desmond et al. is not, however, understood to teach or suggest processing in the computer 10a, 10b. Accordingly, Desmond et al. cannot fairly be understood to teach or suggest at least, in an

information processing apparatus that has a printer driver, synthesizing print command information that has already been stored in a primary buffer means and print command information newly input and for allowing one page of intermediate language data generated based on the synthesized information to be stored in the memory means, if the already stored print command information is identical in attribute to the newly input print command information, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are requested.

Morita et al. is understood to be cited for teaching features of dependent claims. Accordingly, that patent does not remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to Desmond et al.


For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are patentable over the cited art.

The remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims. These dependent claims are believed to be patentable by virtue of their dependency, and for reciting other patentable features of the invention. Favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims are requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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